



VOL. XXIII.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 7, 1855.

NO. 24.



MAINE FARMER

"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

WHAT SHALL BE DONE?

It is now the first week in June. The season thus far has been dry and cold, and vegetation is exceedingly backward. The grass crop, especially, we have never known so backward at this season of the year. In addition to this, a more extensive winter-killing of it has taken place than was ever known by farmers in this section of the State. The cause of this is twofold. We have had three exceedingly dry summers in succession, this diminished the roots to an uncommon extent, so that last fall there was but little foundation. During the past winter we had but very little depth of snow. The frost penetrated deep, and the snow going off early without the usual supply of rain, the grass roots became thrown out and frozen to death. Consequently there must be a short crop of hay this summer.

In addition to that, the hay of the former seasons has been all eaten up. None of the past crop can be had—the future promises but little—what shall be done?

Let those who have the means use every exertion to sow oats—oats and peas, buckwheat, &c., to be cut for fodder. Let all turn their attention to raising root crops of some kind or other—carrots, beets, Ruta Baga and English turnips. Corn sown in drills any time in June, and well hoed, will turn out a good amount of fodder, which may be cut, dried, and bundled up in the same manner that you do corn stalks cut from corn in the usual way. In the meantime, if opportunity offers, the frozen to death patches in your mowing lots, may be turned over by the plough, harrowed, and clover and grass sown upon them any time between this and August. You will thus get them ready to give you a crop of hay next year, if the seasons are propitious.

MULCHING NEWLY PLANTED TREES.
Those who have set out trees this spring must see to them, lest the drought may dry them so thoroughly that they may die.

To prevent this it will be useful to mulch them—that is, cover the ground over their roots with some substance that shall keep the moisture about them, or in other words keep them from drying up. A great variety of substances are useful for this purpose, such as muck, leaves from the wood, spent tan, saw dust, &c. We have used shavings from the turning lathes and from the planing machines with very good effect.

A writer (Mr. L. H. Spear, of Brandon, Vt.) in the *Plow, Loom and Anvil*, recommends spent tan, and also sawdust for the purpose, having tried it about some cedars (Arbor Vite) that he had set out.

The following is an extract from his communication:—
"We set on the same grounds, also, about fifteen rods of arbor vite hedges. We mulched them also with sawdust, and there was not one failure."

Last June I set a quantity of arbor vite on a bank, close to the wall. I put about two shovels full of spent tan around each tree; and although they were set just as the extremely dry season commenced not one of them died, although we did not water them.

Villages are frequently built on alluvial soil, and then it is often extremely difficult to make trees flourish. Those who wish to ornament their gardens will find that a liberal supply of sawdust or spent tan added to the soil, either by mixing with it or as a top-dressing, is very advantageous.

Either of the above substances, which are usually considered worthless, and can be had in abundance near all our villages, will many times pay the expense of hauling and applying. Adopt this treatment, and those trees which usually appear sickly in mid-summer will be of a darker hue, and their broad leaves will shelter you from the scorching heat of a summer's sun.

I have no doubt that near almost every country village, sufficient quantities of sawdust and tan are wasted every year to top-dress the ground under five thousand trees.

Let me advise you, then, to apply it to your alluvial soils, and your villages will no longer have the appearance of being built in a desert, but rather in the luxuriant soil and in the balmy climate of the Indies."

SHEARING SHEEP BY MACHINERY.

The Scientific American announces the fact that a Michigan Yankee, by the name of Palmer Lancaster, who lives in Burr Oak, in that State, has invented a machine to shear sheep, and which will probably put the old sheep-shears out of sight. It thus describes its operation.

"The machine, which is small and neat, is hung by a strap to the arm of the operator, and placed on the body of the sheep to be shorn. By simply turning a handle back and forth, and moving the machine over the body of the sheep, the wool is made to fly off in double quick time. It is well known that the most experienced hands at sheep shearing do not cut the fleece even; and besides, the skin of the animal is invariably clipped out by the shears in many spots. This instrument cuts the fleece rapidly and evenly, never cutting any part of the fleece twice; and it avoids cutting the skin of the animal; it is therefore a humane as well as a labor saving contrivance."

TO KEEP FLIES FROM TROUBLING HORSES. It is said that walnut tea, a handful of the leaves infused in a quart of cold water overnight, and then boiled a quarter of an hour, applied with a sponge when cool, will keep flies from troubling a horse.

A PLEA FOR HEMLOCK.

Ms. Editor:—I noticed, some time since, the enquiry of G. D. in relation to the durability of hemlock shingles, and in your last is an answer from Horsey Sylvester, in which you concur. Now let us see whether you ought.

He uses for experiment the best quality of pine and the poorest quality of hemlock, and then jumps at the conclusion that hemlock shingles are valueless, admitting, in the same breath that pine ones are equally valueless if made of the same quality of timber, viz: small and with the sap. Forty or fifty years ago, when pine was very plenty, when all any one expected or asked for pines that now would make the lumbermen's eyes glisten, was merely enough to pay the bills for hauling, the frames for our buildings were all of pine, as being the easiest to work and of access, but the sills would not last as well in the most exposed portions of the building. And our fathers reasoned correctly, for on removing or taking down old buildings that have stood thirty or forty years, or more, pine sills have been found rotten, hemlock and spruce sound. Red beech has been used sometimes with equal success.

Were you about to build a board fence, you would take hemlock or spruce boards, not because they may come a few cents per rod cheaper, but because they make a stiffer and more durable fence. A few years will render the pine fence boards, from seven to nine inches in width, comparatively unsound and brittle, while the spruce or hemlock have grown more hard and substantial. The reason for all this is very simple. Pine is a soft wood, it absorbs more water, and the longer it is exposed the more wet it takes up at each rain, and the longer it takes to dry—while the reverse is the case with hemlock and spruce. My observations are with sound pine and sound spruce or hemlock.

Now, these reasons must be all true with regard to shingles. On a steep roof a hemlock shingle is the most durable of any of the kinds now used, but on a flat roof I should prefer cedar or pine, from the fact that you are more apt to get a few unsound shingles among hemlock. The unsoundness will be in shingles that neither sorter nor layer will notice. The cedar and pine are not so liable to that unsoundness as hemlock. On a steep roof, what a mechanic would call a half pitch, I believe, a hemlock shingle will resist the wear of the water coming much the longer, and be less likely to leak from any shaly unsoundness. I manufacture many shingles, of all kinds, and many people call on me, relating their experiences and observations in favor of the kinds they wish to purchase. Mr. Sylvester has told a story, and I must.

A gentleman from a neighboring town called on me, about two years ago, for shingles for his barn,—he must have hemlock shingles, nothing else would answer. He had just taken down his barn, which had been built forty years, and shingled with hemlock shingles, many of which would answer to-day. My neighbor wishes shingles, this spring, to put on his house that has been shingled twenty-eight years,—and he wishes for hemlock. Twenty-eight years ago, his father built the house and shingled one side with old growth pine shingles, (for then they used no other,) and the other with hemlock, both kinds rived and shaved,—the roof of the house fronting east and west, so that neither kind had the advantage on that account. He remarked that he thought he should not take off the hemlock shingles, as they apparently would answer some years longer. I have a larger story, yet, in case it is needed to keep hemlock buoyant for any purposes where it is used in its rough state.

Sylvester's sawing pine would make very fair shingles, when sawed in the winter or very early in the spring, and seasoned before packing,—almost equal to his old growth pine.

Now, my advice to G. D. is, to get himself some good sound white hemlock timber, have it sawed rive, one-half inch thick, seventeen inches long, discard all the unsound shingles, which he can use on the walls of his building, lay them five inches to the weather, nail them well, and if he is on the small side of thirty, he never will have to relay them.

G. Albany, Me., April 11, 1855.

NOTE. We are pleased to have the facts which our correspondent brings forward, as they are proofs from experience. We believe that it accords with our ideas, as well as those of our friend Sylvester, viz: That sound, solid (not shaly) hemlock would be at least as durable as pine.

Query.—Does the time of the year when they are cut make much difference with hemlock shingles? Ed.

IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS. Provide yourself with the best of implements. This is an age of improvement, and oftentimes an improved farming implement—though it may cost much more than an old fashioned one, will be found infinitely the cheaper of the two, in the end. The improved plow, cultivator, hoe, scythe, forks of all kinds, together with the chaffing, reaping, mowing, stone-picking seed-sowing, and other newly invented implements, are effecting an entire revolution in agriculture. Not only is the farmer enabled through this assistance to perform a much greater amount of labor with the same help, but to perform it much better. To some robust fellows of his own country, and the most irksome details of husbandry are performed, if not with pleasure, at least with the greatest ease. You should avail yourself of all these resources. (Germanstown Telegraph.)

SETTING HENS. In setting hens, thirteen eggs are enough to give them; a large hen might cover more, but a few stronger, well-hatched chicks are better than a large brood of weaklings that have been delayed in the shell perhaps twelve hours over the time, from inefficient warmth. At the end of a week, it is usual, with setting turkeys, to add two or three fowls' eggs, "to teach the young turkeys to pick." The plan is not a bad one, the activity of the chicks stirs up some emulation in their larger brethren. The eggs take but little room in the nest, and will produce two or three very fine fowls. [Albany Cultivator.]



The Domestic Turkey.

A CHAPTER ON TURKEYS.

It would seem odd for a Yankee to keep "Thanksgiving day" without a good fat roast turkey smoking on his table. But to have that goodly and very important item of a Thanksgiving feast, you must rear them from the egg, and give them a good chance to grow and fatten. Every good farmer's wife, or perhaps we should say, every farmer's good wife will tell you, that the most difficult part of this labor is while they are young, that from the time they hatch until they are two months old, they are very tender, but after that period they become hardy and give but little trouble provided they can have a suitable range, for they are great ramblers and will travel over a good deal of space in the course of a day in pursuit of food.

They are fond of insects especially grasshoppers. In the grasshopper hunt, if that insect is abundant, they seem to have a sort of military system. You will often see them marching along across the fields in platoons, shoulder to shoulder, eagerly catching the insect as they start up affrighted at the tramp of their enemy. After they have marched to the end of the field they wheel by platoons and take another sweep back, all intent on catching their prey, and so socially chatting, too, sweet, sweet, with each other until night fall, when they look out for roosting quarters, generally some wide branching tree, but sometimes the top rail of the fence.

The turkey, also, we believe, now reared in all parts of the civilized world, is a native American, that is, it is indigenous to North America, was found here on the first settlement of the country, and has been introduced from hence to all parts of the world, and has become almost indispensable in administering to the good living of the community.

The cut we here give is a faithful and correct portrait of this favorite of the barn yard. We find also in the New England Farmer, the following article on the turkey, which we doubt not will be read with interest and profit by many.

"Some thirty or forty years ago it was a rare thing with many families to have a roasted turkey, or even a pair of chickens, upon their table, more than once or twice in the year; and then on some particular occasion, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, or when some long-absent friend had returned to sit once more at the family board. Good beef could be purchased by the quarter, for three to five cents a pound, and in small quantities for five to eight and nine cents a pound. At the same time nice turkeys brought ten to fifteen cents, and were looked upon by the mechanic and laborer as a *tabooed* food to them. Now the best beef sells at from ten to seventeen cents, and poultry from eight to fifteen cents, though rarely commanding the latter price. Poultry is often on the tables of all who desire it, and is esteemed wholesome food, and, considering the waste in such as cheap as beef.

Turkeys cannot be profitably raised on small farms and in thickly settled neighborhoods, as they require a wide range, and where they can enjoy it will not only provide mainly for themselves until near autumn, but will also be of much service to the farmer, in destroying great numbers of grasshoppers and other insects that infest the farm. Indeed, some years, when grasshoppers are numerous, a flock of turkeys on the farm will save whole crops of grass and grain.

There is no more difficulty in rearing turkeys the first two or three months than in rearing common fowls, and the same rules are applicable to parent and chick. The nest for sitting should be in a dry and secluded place, where the hen will not be disturbed—neither approaching the nest to turn the eggs or to feed her—she will perform the first duty herself, when it becomes necessary, and come off for food when she requires it. It is very rarely the case that the chick needs any assistance in extricating itself from the shell, and many are injured by an impatient intermeddling with a matter which they understand, and will perform perfectly well, if left to themselves. Nor should they be interfered with for at least twenty-four hours after being hatched—to wait quiet and the warmth of the mother—not food. But if they have the nest and appear to be in search of food, place a little wet corn and cob-meal before them, or corn, wheat or barley, poured into quite small pieces.

Many foolish notions exist among poultry breeders, and many practices prevail which are a good deal worse than useless, and which some of the books on poultry—we are sorry to say—still inculcate. Almost any treatise on the subject will give some 20 or 30 pages on the diseases of poultry; but as it is much easier and better to prevent disease than to cure it, we shall recommend none of the medicaments or nostrums employed. When poultry is properly sheltered and fed, disease will only be the exception to the rule of general health. Want of proper food, irregular feeding, too many occupying a small space, exposure to cold, and more than all

these combined, exposure to wet, are the prolific sources of disease in the poultry-yard.

We believe that exposure to wet and cold is the principal cause of loss of the young of all kinds of domestic fowls, including even ducks. Nearly the whole dismal catalogue of diseases—the pip, or gapes, diarrhoea, indigestion, asthma, fever, consumption, moping, rheumatism, roup and vermin, may be traced to this. We have lost 50 chickens in a single storm where wind and rain has found its way to broods which we supposed were safe, and it was twenty years before we discovered a remedy. Now we rarely lose a chicken by disease. After taking your chickens or turkeys from the nest, place them upon a tight scaffold in the barn, and tie the mother there, where they will be kept from wind and rain, and if fed regularly upon a variety of food, they will remain healthy, and grow with wonderful rapidity. Keep them in this position until sometime in May, and then if they are placed in coops, do not let them run at large during rainy weather, or while the grass is wet with dew in the morning. Observing these simple rules, there is no difficulty whatever in rearing young turkeys or chickens.

1. Protection from wet and cold.
2. Sufficient room, or range, so that they may not be crowded.
3. A variety of wholesome food and water, with access to broken bones, oyster shells, gravel or old mortar.

4. Perfect cleanliness.
But turkeys must have a wide range; to confine them would be about as great a departure from nature as to expect the pear from a willow, or a fleece of fine wool upon the back of a calf. Feed the flock of turkeys habitually at night near the buildings, and thus induce them to come to roost prepared for them in high places, to which they may have convenient access. Cared for in this way, the loss will be trifling, while the profit will usually be larger than from any other item on the farm where the same amount of capital is invested.

If fed liberally as autumn approaches, and continued until market time, there will be no need of abstaining them up for fattening; they will not only become fat enough, but their flesh will be tender, juicy and sweet. These statements grow out of an actual experience of many years in rearing turkeys and other fowls."

HOW TO DESTROY THE ONION FLY.

Ms. Editor:—I notice, in the last number of the Farmer, your desire of information in regard to the destruction of the onion fly, or a remedy against its ravages. If your "old friend," and others that may have been pestered by its presence, will follow the course pursued by me for the last three years, with satisfactory success, they may again pride themselves upon having a good kitchen garden.

I sow in trenches, with a good supply of seed soaked in warm water, (stirring in plaster to dry the seed, also making it far better for sowing.) As soon as I see the first winter, from the maggot working at the root of the plant, I heat water in proportion to the size of the bed, throwing in while boiling a quantity of tansy. While hot, pour the liquid from a sprinkler (without the rose) or a large coffee pot around the roots, but care should be taken not to pour it on the stock. I think clear water may answer the purpose. The maggot being tender is easily killed by the heat.

I have gathered large-sized onions with a hole between the roots (caused by the tormenter while small) as large as a filbert, which were saved by one application only of the above remedy. G. E. C. North Bridgton, May 28, 1855.

NOTE. We are glad to receive the above communication. We shall give the remedy a trial, and if hot tansy is, or hot water will, destroy the little tormenter, it is best to give him enough of it.

WHITENING. As this is the season for house cleaning and whitewashing, we will give our readers a hint that may be valuable to them. It is in relation to making whitewash. This article, as ordinarily made, rubs off the walls after it becomes dry, soiling clothes and everything coming in contact with it. This may be obviated by slackening the lime in boiling water, stirring it meanwhile, and then applying—after dissolving in water—white vitriol (sulphate of zinc) in the proportion of four pounds to a barrel of whitewash, making it the consistency of rich milk. The sulphate of zinc will cause the wash to harden, and prevent the lime from rubbing off. A pound of white salt should also be thrown into it. [Alton Farmer.]

GOOD STOCK. To every farmer who has occasion to raise a calf, a lamb, or a pig, or indeed any animal, I would say, first: see that the intended parents are healthy, and neither very young nor in the decline of life. Second: that they are not near relatives. Third: that the intended dam be "well treated" after conception. These are the first requisites. [Life Illustrated.]

MAINE STATE AG. SOCIETY.

PREMIUM LIST FOR 1855.

Subject to Revision by the Executive Committee.

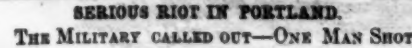
On Live Stock.

The following premiums are offered on Horses.

For best 2 years old, for the road and farm, endurance, activity and pedigree considered. \$20.00
2d do. 15.00
3d do. 10.00
For best 3 years old, for the road and farm, endurance, activity and pedigree considered. 20.00
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For best 72 years old, for the road and farm, endurance, activity and pedigree considered. 20.00
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2d do. 15.00
3d do. 10.00
For best 99 years old, for the road and farm, endurance, activity and pedigree considered. 20.00
2d do. 15.00
3d do. 10.00
For best 100 years old, for the road and farm, endurance, activity and pedigree considered. 20.00
2d do. 15.00
3d do. 10.00

A statement will be required, as to age and breed of the horse, the time when she dropped her calf, and the number of pounds of milk which she yielded during the last year, commencing the 1st of August, and ending the 31st of July, commencing

NEWSPAPER.



An Irish Wedding. A marriage was celebrated recently in county Monaghan, I.

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The Muse.

From Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.
THE SEASHORE.

Mourn on, oh solitary sea,
To love to hear thy moan,
The world's lamentation to melody,
In thy sighing tone;
Lo! on the yielding sand I lean,
And the white cliffs around me draw the scene,
And part me from the world. Let me dream,
For one short hour its pleasures and its pain,
And, wrapped in dreamy thought, some peaceful moments glean.

No voice of any living thing is near,
Save the wild sea-bird's wail;
That seems the cry of sorrow deep and drear,
That nothing can recall;
Now in the light breeze with winging sail,
And now descending, do the tawny sail,
Now rest upon the waves, yet still their wail
Of bitter sorrow floats towards the land,
Like grief which change of scene is powerless to command.

The sea approaches, with its weary throng,
Mourning equally;
An ancient grief, too long to depart,
Speaks in that troubled throng;
Yet its glad waves seem dancing merrily,
For hope from them conveys the warning tones;
Gaily they rush toward the shore to die,
While their bright spray upon the sand is thrown,
All still around them, wails the sea and ceaseless moans.

And thus it is, and it is the best,
Gay sparkling hopes arise,
Each one in turn, but none is lasting;
That false and false desire;
On life's sea, where each cherished vision lies,
Numbered with those that will return no more;
These early joys—youth's dearly cherished ties—
Bright dreams of fame lie perished on the shore,
While the warm heart laments what grief can never restore.

Yet still the broken waves are resting strive
Against their rocky shore,
Seeking in sparkling beauty to revive
As in their first career;
They strive in vain—their lustre, bright and clear,
Fades from them, with earth all dim and stained;
And thus the heart would raise its vision clear,
And shape them from now fragments that remained,
But finds their brightness gone, by earth's old couch profaned.

Long have I lingered here, the evening fair
In robe of mist draws nigh,
The sinking sun sighs forth its sad despair,
More and more distant;
Faded is the sea-bird's melancholy cry,
For night approaches with the step of age,
When youth's bright dreams are faded to a sigh,
And the dim eye aghast beholds the page
That holds the records of a sorrow's former rage.

And nature answers my complaining woe,
With her own quietude,
Bids me observe the mist ascending slow
From the deserted shore,
And learn that scattered and defiled no more,
The fallen waves are wafted to the shore;
That the hope which lingers in the eye,
Though fast it falls before my sighing eye,
Falls but in tears on earth, to Heaven unstained to rise.

The Story-Teller.

From Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.
CATCHING A TARTAR.

On a bright sunny day, some years ago, when the slaves carried on their infamous operations with a boldness only equal to their success—notwithstanding the exertions used by our cruisers to enforce the various treaties entered into by this country with several of the European powers for the abolition of the vile trade—Her Majesty's ship *Tardy* might have been seen riding at anchor off the British fort of Acra, a most agreeable and comparatively healthy little town on the Gold Coast.

The day in question was unusually hot, even for that proverbially roasting climate. There was not a breath of air sufficient to ruffle the surface of the sea, nor a cloud to temper the fierce rays of the vertical sun, penetrating through the thin white awnings with a power almost insupportable to the panting and exhausted crew, who were assembled in listless groups on the fore-castle, longing for the slightest breath of air to revive their exhausted frames. The only sign approaching to activity appeared in the person of the young officer second in command, who, as he slowly paced the quarter-deck, occasionally paused to examine with a glass the low sandy shore glistening with peculiar brightness at the foot of the lofty range of mountains, which form the bold background of this part of the coast.

The *Tardy* was one of those old ten gun brigs that are now, happily, nearly extinct in the service. She was a disgrace to the country that owned her, as well as to the officer who had the misfortune to command her; and with all the bad qualities peculiar to that class of vessels, had no redeeming points to recommend her. She was a perfect tub, and a reproach to the gallant flags that belonged to her, who for eighteen months had toiled in the vain hope that a prize would eventually reward their exertions and sufferings on that pestilential coast. Hitherto, however, they had been doomed to disappointment. The excitement of the chase, usually so intense when the sailing qualities of the pursuer and pursued are nearly on a par, had but few charms for the *Tardy*, whose visions of prize-money and honor grew more and more indistinct as the retreating sail of the chase slowly and too surely vanished on the horizon.

Such mortifying failures—the unfailing result of a trial of speed between her Majesty's ship and the low rakish clippers of the coast—were still more annoying, from the fact of the scale and the steady progress of the chase, which was altered shortly before the *Tardy* arrived at the station. Formerly, £10 per head had been allowed for every slave captured, which was shared by the entire squadron; but at the time of the *Tardy*'s arrival at Acra, on her way from Sierra Leone to her cruising-ground in the light of Biafra, £5 per head was allowed to be shared only by the officers and crew of the vessel that made the capture. However beneficial this arrangement might be to the fast-sailing cruiser, it was but a bitter mockery to the helpless *Tardy*'s.

We left the officer—the senior mate already alluded to—watching with his telescope the low shores of Biafra, Dutch, and Danish Acra, with the evident determination of allowing no such success as a capture to break the blockade without his cognisance. His vigilance was shortly rewarded by the appearance of the commander's flag, leaving the shore and under the vigorous strokes of her lusty crew she quickly reached the side of the brig, bringing on board the commander himself. After the hostile incident to his arrival had somewhat subsided, the mate accompanied his chief below, whither we will follow.

"Well, Mr. Winton," commenced the commander, as soon as they reached the cabin, "I suppose you have heard short, and are all ready for tripping as soon as the land-breeze makes its appearance. The canoes containing the cart-wheels and gear will be alongside within an hour," continued he, without noticing his junior's bow of assent; "and then the sooner we are off the better."

"Did you hear of there being any vessels in the river about to sail, sir?" inquired the mate.

"Why, no, nothing certain," replied the lieutenant.

"The consul was too intent on finishing out what I could possibly want with his old coach-wheels, to pay much attention to my inquiries on that subject. But I rather think, from what I heard from another source, that the *Vespa* is nearly ready for sea; so possibly, we shall be off the Bonny just in time to intercept her."

"I hope we shall, sir. It is rather vexatious to be always returning into port empty handed."

After some further conversation relative to the hoped-for capture of the *Vespa*—a well-known Spanish slave schooner—the two officers returned on deck, where they saw several of the expected canoes slowly approaching the brig, looking more like moving haystacks than legitimate African canoes. On their arrival alongside, their strange freight caused a good deal of wonder among the hands.

"Well," said an old salt, "I expect this is about the ruinest go as ever was seen on this here part of the coast. I wonder what the skipper's going to do with all this here dunnage."

"Why, turn the *hooker* into a farmyard for monkeys and alligators, and that's her lot for a full day," suggested a worthy topman, who felt too sure on his ill success to be in any humor for joking.

"And make you *Jonny Ducks*. Eh, Bill?" said the first speaker, who was the captain of the fore-castle.

"What's the use of growling like a bear with a sore head? When—"

"Come, come, *shipmate*," cried the innocent topman; "rather in the sink of your jaw. I'm no croaker; but mind what I say!"

The rest of the sentence was lost through the interruption of the officer of the deck, who, having overheard the remarks of the men, sharply ordered them to attend to their duty; and in silence the remainder of the novel cargo was hoisted on board much to the amusement of every one who was engaged in the operation.

During the afternoon all hands were busily engaged, under the personal superintendence of the commander, in stowing their acquisitions in so curious a way, that by sunset they had not completely altered the outward appearance of the brig, that no one who saw her leave the anchorage under the influence of a rattling land-breeze, would have imagined her to be the same vessel which a few hours before had been lazily riding on the glassy sea.

The greater portion of the long thick cargo that had been brought on board, was made up into bundles, and stowed on the booms. The remainder of it was used for covering the coach wheels, which, being made fast horizontally in the chains outside the vessel, gave her more the appearance of an overladen train, than of an Her Majesty's cruiser. The fore-top-gallant mast and flying jib-boom were now got on board, and a short main-top-gallant mast set up instead of the lofty spar always carried aboard. This, with an old and patched suit of sails, cautiously reefed, made the disguise complete.

There being nothing now to detain the brig, all sail was made for her cruising-ground, which she reached shortly afterwards. About noon of the eighth day after leaving Acra, the *Tardy* being then off the entrance to the Bonny River, but out of sight of land, the look-out officer reported a sail on the port-bow. This announcement caused the greatest delight to all hands on board the brig, as she had been dogging about in that locality for several days, in the expectation that one or more of the slaves known to be up the river and about to descend would make their appearance.

As well as could be ascertained from the distance, the stranger appeared a long, rakish schooner, evidently a Guinean, and no doubt one of the gentlemen with whom the *Tardy*'s desired a more intimate acquaintance. One thing was very plain, she had little or no wind. What there was of it, however, was fair for her running out from the land, giving her the weather-gauge of the *Tardy*; and so, far, was just what the officer of the brig wished, as it allowed of the slave the option of speaking them, if so disposed.

In about an hour from the time she was reported, the *Tardy*, by a succession of short tacks, apparently with the intention of working up to the entrance of the Bonny, had arrived within four or five miles of the *Vespa*, which was lazily floating under the influence of a light breeze, and decreasing every moment her distance from the disguised cruiser, apparently without the least idea of there being danger in her path. From the tops of the brig, a number of woolly heads could be seen evidently taking their constitutional—a sure proof that they were engaged in no lawful commerce, and that the schooner was what all hands on board the *Tardy* had expected, and in truth hoped.

"They must surely intend to board us, as they do not alter their course," said the commander. "Show them the colors, Mr. Winton," continued that officer; "perhaps the sight of the old flag may tempt them to pay us a visit."

The British ensign was now waving from the *Tardy*'s peak, but the schooner did not deign to show hers in reply.

In the meanwhile, both vessels gradually approached each other. The crew of the *Tardy*, with the exception of a few of the old steady hands, who were disguised in red flannel shirts, were lying down at their quarters, out of sight, but ready at a moment's notice to use with hearty good-will the guns that were screened from the sight of the pirate craft by the close ports. Jokes were flying about in plenty, as the happy and excited Jacks slapped their pockets in anticipation of the golden lining which they would soon be furnished.

The last tack made by the *Tardy*—in as sober a manner as possible—placed the schooner about half a mile to windward, and as she still appeared to be without the least suspicion of having so formidable an antagonist in her vicinity, the excitement on board Her Majesty's brig, from the captain to the cabin-boy, became almost painful. Every available glass on board was levelled at the wicked-looking craft, to watch with eager glance her minutest movements.

After a short pause, the suspense was relieved by the gaudy flag of Spain being seen slowly ascending to the main peak of the *Vespa*, and immediately followed by a noisy commotion from her fore-castle for the *Tardy* to heave-to.

"Now we have the *rogues*!" exclaimed the commander. "Up main-mast—the main-mast—these are the rapscallions. 'Don't hurry them, lads,' he continued, 'we must not harm them just yet. Belay, there—belay,' was the signal order before the *Tardy* became stationary to await quietly the result.

Onward came the beautiful schooner, gracefully bending under the lively breeze, perfectly unconscious of the reception that awaited her. As she slightly altered her course to pass under the *Tardy*'s stern, a crowd of impatient desperadoes were seen clustering the gangways, ready to pounce upon their expected prey. Too late, however, they perceived their error, when rounding under the lee of the royal cruiser, a formidable battery showed itself to their astonishment, gazed at the terrified crew of a defenceless trader.

On becoming aware of their position, the ruffians were at first too much bewildered to pay any attention to the cruiser's summons for them to surrender; but a messenger, in the shape of a 32 pound shot, soon brought them to their senses, when, seeing all chance of escape perfectly hopeless, the colors of the slave were hoisted down. A boat's crew from the *Tardy*, under the command of the senior mate, was soon in possession of the prize, which, as had been anticipated, proved to be the *Vespa*, a splendid craft of about 200 tons, manned by as desperate a set of scoundrels as were ever bound together by the ties of crime. The greater portion of them were sent on board the *Tardy*; the remainder, as well as the living freight, numbering 270 slaves, were retained on board the *Vespa* which shortly afterwards sailed in charge of the prize-crew for Sierra Leone, leaving her captors diligently cruising, in the hope of winning further laurels. A few days after the *Vespa* reached her destination, her case was tried in the court. As she was taken full of her miserable human freight, there was no difficulty about her condemnation, which took place accordingly. The negroes were of course emancipated; no doubt greatly to the disgust of their captors, whose cruel-fallen appearance, as they suddenly wandered about Sierra Leone, afforded the highest gratification to the prize-crew of Her Majesty's brig *Tardy*.

TREASURE TROVE.

[We copy the following interesting description of the treasure recently discovered on Richmond Island, in Portland harbor, from the "State of Maine." For the out showing the inscription upon the ring we are indebted to the publishers of the above paper, who will please accept our acknowledgments for the prompt and obliging manner in which they answered our application for the same.]

The discovery of a quantity of gold coin on the 11th of May, at Richmond Island, has created quite a sensation in this place and at Cape Elizabeth, and has revived the rumors of a former day that large quantities of money lay buried in the soil of that and other islands in this neighborhood. This impression is not of recent date, nor confined to this region; for ever since the Buccaneers infested our coast, 200 years ago, the impression has prevailed that they concealed their treasures upon our islands, where they have been repeatedly sought by visionary men.

But the present case is no vision. A veritable collection of coin of an old date having been found, it was induced to make an investigation into the circumstances; and accompanied by Hon. C. S. Davis, Dr. Gilman Davis, and Dr. John Cummings, the owners of the island, we carefully examined the locality and there found fragments of the pot in which the coin was buried, and other relics of a former age. As these are matters in which many of our citizens have taken a deep interest, I proceed to give a description of the place and the articles discovered.

Richmond Island lies off the southern shore of Cape Elizabeth, the nearest point half a mile distant. It is about a mile long and three quarters of a mile wide at the broadest part, and contains a little more than 200 acres.

The first settlement made upon this island of which we have any account, was by Walter Bagnall, in 1628; he carried on a profitable trade with the Indians, and was killed by them for his extortion, October 3, 1631. Wintthrop, in his journal, says he accumulated a large property, £400, by his traffic. Bagnall occupied until 1631. On December 1, 1631, the council of Plymouth granted the island and the whole southern part of Cape Elizabeth, from Cammock's patent of Black Point to Cacao Bay, to Robert Trelawny and Moses Goodyear, merchants of Plymouth, Eng., and sent the patent over to John Winter, their agent, who was one of the adventures, to the extent of 1-10, to establish a trading house, and conduct the operations of the plantation.

Winter took possession of the grant at once, and entered upon a large business. He built a ship there immediately, probably the bark Richmond, and sent to Europe, lumber, fish, furs, oil, &c., and received in return, wine, liquors, guns, ammunition and articles necessary for the Indian trade, and to sustain the colony. Several ships were employed in the trade; the names of some of them were the *Agnes*, *Richmond*, *Hercules*, and *Margery*. In 1635, a ship of 80 tons, and a pinnace of 10 tons arrived at the island. In 1638, Winter had sixty men employed there in the fishing business, and the same year Trelawny sent a ship of 300 tons laden with wine and spirits to the island. In 1639, Winter sent a ship of 100 tons, and in 1640, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1641, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1642, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1643, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1644, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1645, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1646, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1647, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1648, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1649, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1650, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1651, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1652, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1653, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1654, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1655, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1656, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1657, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1658, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1659, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1660, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1661, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1662, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1663, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1664, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1665, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1666, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1667, a ship of 100 tons, and in 1668, a ship of 100 tons, 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